



Summer 2022

Dear Camp KidZone Parents and Guardians,

Welcome and thank you for signing-up for the Northampton Parks & Recreation Department's summer programs! This parent packet contains information on Camp KidZone as well as the department's policies and procedures. Please review the packet thoroughly and make sure to go over all the necessary information with your child.

The Northampton Parks & Recreation Department's mission is to promote the health and general well-being of the individual and the community. We hope to create memories that your child will remember for years to come while offering a safe environment where your child will grow through the various activities that we offer in each of our age-appropriate programs.

The Northampton Parks & Recreation Department hires experienced individuals to work with your children throughout the summer. Our staff consists of individuals who have degrees in Education, related fields or qualified candidates who are attending college and high school. They are required to attend two mandatory days of staff training where the staff is trained specifically for the program and age that they will be working with. In addition to the staff orientation, all Supervisor and Recreation Leader positions are certified in CPR, Epi-Pen administration and First Aid. All of our summer day camps fully comply with the State Health Department Codes and Inspections for Licensed Day Camps.

Please note, due to the expiration of the Federally Funded school lunch program, we will not be able to offer free lunch this year.

If you have any questions or concerns throughout the summer, please do not hesitate to contact us by calling the Northampton Parks & Recreation Department Office at (413)587-1040 or by emailing us at recreation@northamptonma.gov. Your feedback lets us know how we are doing. Once again, welcome to the Northampton Parks & Recreation Department Summer Programs! Please make sure to keep this handbook to use as a guide throughout the summer, it is also posted on our website, www.northamptonma.gov/recreation.



Sincerely,

Heidi Gutekenst
Recreation Supervisor

Shelby Michna
Assistant Director of Parks & Recreation

Ann-Marie Moggio
Director of Parks & Recreation

Registration/Changes Policies

Please note the registration policies below:

A. Additions to Original Registration

- a. Changes to the initial registration must be made in writing **at least one week in advance of the requested change**. A non-refundable \$25 deposit per session is required.
- b. To request a change, please submit your request in writing one of the following ways:
 - i. Email: recreation@northamptonma.gov
 - ii. Mail: Northampton Parks & Recreation Department, 100A Bridge Rd, Florence, MA 01062
 - iii. Fax: (413)587-1045
 - iv. Drop off at the office, Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m., or put in the mailbox by the door after hours.

B. Summer Camp Payments

- a. All balances are due June 3, 2022

C. Refunds

- a. All sessions have a \$25 non-refundable deposit; there is also a \$10 service charge for all refunds.
- b. In order to receive a refund, requests must be submitted at least one week prior to the start of the program.
- c. **Refund** requests must be made in writing to the Parks & Recreation Department, email to recreation@northamptonma.gov or send a letter to the office.
- d. To request a refund, please submit your request in writing one of the following ways:
 - i. Email: recreation@northamptonma.gov
 - ii. Mail: Northampton Parks & Recreation Department, 100A Bridge Rd, Florence, MA 01062
 - iii. Fax: (413)587-1045
 - iv. Drop off at the office, (office opens to the public July 6) Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m., or put it in the mail box by the door after hours.
- e. Please allow 4-6 weeks for your refund to process.
- f. Requests for cancellations of sessions are subject to the policy stated above.
- g. See **Northampton Parks and Recreation** [Refund Policy](#)



We look forward to a fun and active summer of 2021!

Once you have completed reading this packet, if you have any other questions, comments or concerns, please feel free to contact us at the Parks & Recreation Department office, Monday through Friday, 8:30am - 4:30pm.

Northampton Parks & Recreation Department

Office Staff

Contact

Director	Ann-Marie Moggio
Assistant Director	Shelby Michna
Recreation Supervisor	Heidi Gutekenst
Recreation Supervisor	Brooke Fairman
Aquatics Supervisor	Jim Miller
Department Secretary	Jodi Page
Senior Clerk/Secretary	Sandra Gross

Rec. Office: Monday-Friday, 8:30a.m. - 4:30p.m.
Phone: (413)587-1040
Fax: (413)587-1045
Email: recreation@northamptonma.gov
Website: <https://northamptonma.gov/Parks-Recreation>
Weather changes: (413)587-1044 or check website and click on "[cancellations/changes](#)"

Camp KidZone

Fun, exciting days await campers! Camp KidZone is a full day program that runs from 8:30am – 4:30pm and is for children entering grades 1 through 4. The program is offered in seven, one-week sessions starting June 28 and is held within the gorgeous 150 acres of [Look Memorial Park](#) in Florence. Daily activities include sports, arts and crafts, cooperative games and swimming at the Aquatic and Family Center at JFK Middle School or Musante Beach in Leeds. Each week's activities and special events are created around the weekly themes (see below). Included in the registration fee is a T-shirt for each participant and a weekly exciting field trip. The participant T-shirt must be worn on field trip days. Extended day is offered to children and families for a minimal extra fee (see options below).

****You will receive a detailed daily calendar before each session begins****

Session	Session Dates	Weekly Themes	Highlights
Session 1	June 28–July 1 (No camp June 27)	School's Out for Fun!	 Bus Trip to Interskate 91
Session 2	July 5 –July 8 (No camp July 4)	Holidaze	Bus Trip to Laurel Lake at Erving State Forest
Session 3	July 11 – July 15	 Capes & Cloaks	Bus trip to Nomad's Adventure Quest
Session 4	July 18 – July 22	 Color me Wild	Bus trip to Billy Beez
Session 5	July 25 – July 29	Walk on the Wildside	Bus trip to Lake Wyola
Session 6	August 1 – August 5	Summer Splash	 Bus trip to Sonny's Place
Session 7	August 8 – August 12	Best of the Best	Bus Trip to Bounce! Trampoline

**schedule above subject to change*

Field Trips

Field Trip!

Camp KidZone offers a field trip for all sessions. These costs are included in the weekly program fee.

All participants and all staff of Camp KidZone will be attending these field trips.

Our field trip schedule is as follows (*rain dates are usually the next day):

Session 1	Wednesday, June 29	Interskate 91 ,	Hadley, MA
Session 2	Wednesday, July 6	Erving State Forest ,	Erving, MA
Session 3	Wednesday, July 13	Nomads Adventure Quests	South Windsor, CT
Session 4	Wednesday, July 20	Billy Beez	Holyoke, MA
Session 5	Wednesday, July 27	Lake Wyola	Shutesbury, MA
Session 6	Wednesday, August 3	Sonny's Place	Somers, CT
Session 7	Wednesday, August 10	Bounce! Trampoline	Springfield, MA



schedule subject to change

Group Placements and Units

When you register, you will write down the grade that your child **will be entering in Fall 2022**. We break Camp KidZone up into two units; **Unit I** is for children entering grades 1 & 2 and **Unit II** is for kids entering grades 3 & 4. Each unit is broken down into groups, where your child will be placed with a Recreation Leader and Junior Leader.

Pines Theater

Look Park offers a variety of children's entertainment shows scheduled each Tuesday morning throughout our program. KidZone children will be attending these weekly entertainment shows and the cost is included in the weekly program fee. Pines Theatre events will be held rain or shine, the rain site is under a large tent.

The Pines Theater Franklin King Children's Series Schedule can be found at www.lookpark.org.

Swimming Schedule

Camp KidZone swims Monday, Tuesday, & Thursday at the Aquatic and Family Center at JFK Middle School. Each child will be evaluated for their swim ability by a certified lifeguard. We break up the kids up into two different swim groups, they swim for one hour and we then walk them back to Look Park. On Fridays we shuttle via bus over to Musante Beach in Leeds for an afternoon of swimming. The kids are shuttle bused over in two groups and everyone is back to the park by 4:00p.m. for regular pick-up.



Arts & Crafts

Each child will have one structured arts and crafts class for 30-45 minutes per session. An afternoon art option will also be available on Thursday. Each week our staff will offer new projects that are based upon the theme weeks.



Extended Day

Camp KidZone is held Monday through Friday, 8:30 am - 4:30 pm. We offer an extended day option that provides participants with 45 minutes of extra supervision in the beginning and end of the regular program hours (7:45a.m – 5:15p.m). The cost is \$30.00 per session per child. Sessions One and Two will be \$25 because there will be no program on Monday June 27th and Monday July 4th. You must sign up for the whole session, you cannot choose days during the week.



What to Provide Each Day

Let's start with a backpack and **label** the bag and belongings with your child's name. This bag will be carried by your child each day. Please send your child ready to play in comfortable and weather appropriate clothes and shoes (no flip flops). **Don't forget to label everything!** Now, fill the backpack with....



- Lunch, snacks, and a refillable water bottle!



- a. Food will not be refrigerated, please provide a lunch box with a freezer pack.
- b. Please also provide some munchies for a mid-morning **snack** break and afternoon **snack**.



- Bathing suit, towel, and a reusable bag for wet swimsuits and gear – We swim almost every day.
 - a. Monday, Tuesday, & Thursday we walk to JFK Middle School for swimming at the Aquatic and Family Center.
 - b. Friday afternoons, children are bussed to swim at Musante Beach in Leeds.
- Hat and **sunscreen** - Even though there is a lot of shade at the park, the **sun** is strong. Our staff will not apply lotion sunscreen. Please apply sunscreen to your child each morning and our staff will remind the kids to reapply during the day. It is recommended to send your child with **spray sunscreen** that has a minimum of 25SPF. We will encourage sunscreen use and assist kids with **spray sunscreen** only.



Your child is responsible for this bag and may be wearing it throughout the day, please keep this in mind while preparing the bag!

What Not to Bring

Electronic devices of any sort are not allowed. This includes, but is not limited to, cell phones, hand held video games, tablets, etc. Please don't send your child with personal toys or anything that you do not want to lose or share to the summer programs. The Parks & Recreation Department is not responsible for lost or stolen items.



T-Shirts

Participants in Camp KidZone will receive t-shirts during the first session that they attend. Camp KidZone participants will need to wear their t-shirts on field trip days, which are on Wednesdays.

Inclement Weather (Rainy Days, Pop-up Thunderstorms)

If it is raining in the morning and you are not sure of the Camp KidZone location then please contact the Parks & Recreation Department's **24 hour information hotline at (413)587-1044 or visit our website at www.northamptonma.gov/recreation and click on [cancellations](#) for weather updates.**



The rain location for the Camp KidZone program will be at the Aquatic and Family Center at J.F.K Middle School. Enter through the rear door, across from the tennis courts. If the rain continues all day, we will remain at the school. If it clears, we will return to Look Park. If it is predicted that there will be afternoon showers and/or thunderstorms then we will also head over to our rain site at JFK Middle School and afternoon pick-up will be at JFK, not Look Park. If there are any questions to where the pick-up location is then please contact the Parks & Recreation Department's cancellation hotline (413)587-1044 or check out our website at www.northamptonma.gov/recreation and click on cancellations/changes.

Look Park

[Look Memorial Park](#) is a privately operated facility, and they do not receive City tax dollars for operation. Look Park is a **CARRY IN/CARRY OUT** facility. This means that there are no trash or waste containers. Please keep this in mind while you pack your child a lunch. Our cooperative agreement with them stipulates that participants **MUST purchase a Look Park Vehicle Entrance Sticker for the Camp KidZone and Camp Hamp programs**. There are two options:

Option 1:

You may purchase a year round season entry pass for Look Park. These stickers are available in person at Look Park or at the Parks & Recreation Department and cost \$65 and \$50 for a senior citizen. Same household second-vehicle stickers are discounted when purchased with the first sticker. These are good for all of 2022. You will be able to purchase this pass at drop off each Monday.

Option 2:

\$20 for Residents or Non-residents, per pass. This special pass is for our Camp KidZone and Camp Hamp programs. It is not a season's pass to Look Park, but a summer camp pass that will allow you entrance into Look Park for picking-up and dropping-off your child. This pass is only good from 7:45am-5:15pm, Monday through Friday while the program is running during the session you are signed up for.

This pass is **ONLY** available for purchase at the Parks & Recreation Department with cash or check made out to Look Park. The pass must be displayed in vehicle and available for ranger inspection. It is non-adhesive and can be used by multiple cars.

****The Northampton Parks & Recreation Department is open Monday – Friday, from 8:30am – 4:30pm****

Program Procedures & Policies

Storage and Administration of Medication

Medical Conditions

Northampton Parks & Recreation Department encourages all medications to be given at home. **If your child must have medicine during camp hours, parents must complete the required portions in CampDoc.** This has to be approved by the Camp's Health Care Consultant. Medication will only be administered by the Health Care Supervisor(s) designated by the HCC and authorized to administer prescription medications. All medication prescribed for participants shall be kept in original containers bearing the pharmacy label which shows the prescription number, date filled, name of medication, and directions for use. All other over the counter medications for the participant shall be kept in the original containers containing the original label. Your child's counselor should carry your child's medications. It is imperative that if your child suffers from asthma or is allergic to bees or anything else, that we be informed.

Epi-Pen

All program Supervisors and Recreation Leaders are certified in administering an epi-pen. If your child has a severe allergy and requires carrying an epi-pen, please provide the appropriate information in CampDoc. **The Northampton Parks & Recreation Department requires that any camper who requires any type of medication to be given at camp MUST provide medication authorization orders AND emergency action plans for allergies and diabetes.** Please also address your child's allergy to your child's counselor on the first day of camp.

Special Arrangements

If there are any specific medical concerns we should know about your child (medical problems, allergies, etc.), please submit this information when completing your child's electronic health record in CampDoc.

Mildly Ill Campers

If a child comes to recreation staff reporting they are not feeling well, the staff will take the following steps: ask the child how long they have not felt well, if they feel like they are going to be sick, if they would like to try to stay at camp, or would like to go home.

- If the child would like to go home, call the parent and make arrangements for pickup. If the parent can't be reached, call the emergency contact.
- If the child would like to stay at camp, check in with the child each half hour to see how they feel.

Keep the child isolated from the other children, until they are feeling better or are picked up by a parent. A child must be picked up by a parent if they have a fever, severe headache, anything unresolvable, a blow to the head, bleeding that doesn't stop with standard first aid, deep wounds, nausea or vomiting, or any condition that the staff doesn't feel comfortable handling; or where a child expresses a need to be with the parent.

Policies

Parents have the right to review background check procedures, health care and discipline policies upon request.

Immunization & Physical Records



The Parks and Recreation department works with [CampDoc](#), an electronic health record system used by camps. Each camper will have their own profile and this is where you will upload your child's immunization and physical records. CampDoc's is where you will also provide any relevant and necessary medical information (allergies, inhalers, medication, EpiPen, etc.). Once you have registered for a session of camp you will receive an email to complete your CampDoc profile.

Meningococcal disease

Meningococcal disease can refer to any illness caused by the type of bacteria called *Neisseria meningitidis*, also known as meningococcus. These illnesses are often severe and can be deadly. They are infections of the lining of the brain and spinal cord and bloodstream infections. Meningococcal vaccination is recommended for all adolescents. Call your primary care physician and follow the recommended immunization schedule to ensure that your camper get the meningococcal vaccines.

Drop Off/Sign-Out Procedure

For your child's safety we ask parents to abide by the following:



Drop-off and pick-up of your child(ren) will be behind the Visitor's Center directly before the tennis courts on the right. Look for the sign that is labeled KidZone. On the first day of the program, you must park your car in the drop-off lane and walk your child to the table for check in. The director or staff will let you know what group your child is in. After the first day, when dropping off your child(ren), please enter the drop off lane and drop off your child at the designated spot.

Parks & Recreation staff will take the children from the drop-off lane to their groups. Drop-off time is 8:30 a.m. and pick-up time is between 4:00 and 4:30 p.m. Do not stop at the bottom of the hill or at the entrance of the park to drop off or pick up your child(ren). This causes traffic as well as safety problems. Please find a parking space. Drop off is not allowed in the Garden House lot.

At the end of each day we require that parents sign their child(ren) out with their counselor. This is done in order to ensure the safety of your child(ren). Please enter pick-up lane and park your car. A counselor from your child's group will approach the vehicle to sign out your child. Please inform the Recreation Leaders on the first day who will be picking up the child(ren) during the session. Send a note if there are any changes. **Permission must be written and signed by the parent/guardian if someone else rather than themselves is picking up the child.**

Walkers/Bikers

As you read previously, it is mandatory that someone signs for each participant so that we have a record of attendance and are assured that all participants make it home safely. If your child plans on walking/biking to and from Camp KidZone, then you must provide the staff with a signed note giving them permission. That will serve as signing out at the end of the day. Parents should have a backup plan for walkers/bikers on rainy and stormy days. If your children are walking/biking home then they need to leave the site of the program. Once they leave they are not the responsibility of the program. Children who are walking or biking cannot leave their program until 4:15pm, unless a parent puts in writing an earlier dismissal time.

Authorized Individuals for Pick-up

There needs to be authorization for people, other than parents, to pick up your child(ren) from their programs. This can be noted in your health profile in CampDocs. If someone other than the people listed will be picking up your child then you must send a written note the morning of stating the person that is allowed to pick up your child.

Late/Early Fee

A supervision fee will be imposed for any child who is picked up late or dropped off too early. A ten minute grace period will be extended. **Following this time a fee will be assessed.** First time offenders will be warned and the fee will be assessed only for repeated incidents. The fee will be \$5.00 for every ten minutes of waiting time. The fee must be paid within 48 hours of the incident. Failure to do so will result in the suspension of the participant until paid. We understand sometimes incidents such as traffic, etc. occur. Please try to call the office to let them know if you are late. The Parks & Rec office closes at 4:30pm.

Chronic lateness may result in suspension from programs. The Police Department will be notified if your child is not picked up within an hour of the scheduled time and no call or contact has been received.



Safety

CORI & SORI Background Checks

Criminal Offender Record Information (CORI) and Sex Offender Registry Information (SORI) checks are done on all City Parks & Recreation Department staff members and volunteers that work and volunteer at our summer programs.

Emergency Procedures – Major incidents

In the event of an emergency, serious injury or illness parents will be contacted immediately. If we cannot reach you through the numbers that you listed when you registered, we will then try to call the person you listed as your emergency contact person. IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT YOU INSTRUCT THIS PERSON IN HOW YOU WOULD LIKE THESE SITUATIONS HANDLED AND THAT THEY KNOW YOU HAVE LISTED THEM as a contact! We hope to never have to call an ambulance, but all such fees will be incurred at your expense. We will always try to contact you and have you pick up your child. This is YOUR RESPONSIBILITY, to have someone *always available*.

Reporting Abuse & Neglect

All children who attend the Northampton Parks & Recreation Summer Camps shall be protected from abuse and neglect. All staff that work at the summer programs at the Northampton Parks & Recreation Department are trained by the District Attorney's office. Any suspected case of abuse or neglect will be reported in writing with factual information and observation from camp staff to the Recreation Supervisor right away. As law requires, all suspected cases of abuse or neglect will then be reported to the Department of Children & Families immediately. Summer Camp staff is mandated by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to report any suspicions of abuse or neglect to the Department Children & Families. The Northampton Parks & Recreation Department will cooperate in all investigations of abuse and neglect by identifying parents of children currently or previously enrolled in the summer programs to any agency or person specified by the State necessary to prompt investigation of all allegations and protection of the child or children.

Crossing Streets

Camp KidZone will cross the street on a daily basis when walking to the Aquatic and Family Center for afternoon swimming. We always use extreme caution when having children cross the streets. We have participants hold hands with a buddy while one staff member stands in the middle of the crosswalk to make sure traffic is stopped. Once traffic is stopped, an additional staff member will lead the children across the street while the other staff follows the last child.

Absences and Tardiness

Absences

Please call the Northampton Parks & Recreation Department at (413)587-1040 or email recreation@northamptonma.gov to inform us if your child will be absent from their program. The Parks & Recreation Office opens at 8:30am, and there is voicemail. The office will inform staff at your child's summer program.

Late Arrival/Early Pick-up from Summer Programs

Please inform your child's Recreation Leader if your child will be arriving late to the program a day in advance, or inform them in the morning at drop-off for early pick-up. Camp KidZone is held at the spacious Look Park and sometimes it is a challenge for the parents to find their children's group to drop-off or pick-up early. Your child's counselor will have the best idea of where your child's group will be during the course of the day.

Field Trip Departures

Camp KidZone will go on a weekly field trip (see under field trips). It is your responsibility to get your child to their program on time; **buses will not wait for tardy participants.**

Behavior & Discipline Policy

Behavior Contract

All program participants are expected to behave appropriately. If behavior becomes a problem, a behavior contract will be issued for children who are continually disruptive. This includes using foul language, not keeping hands to themselves, not listening, distracting other participants, wandering away from activities without permission from staff and other actions that are taking away from the program on a constant basis.

The contract will list the goals that the child is going to work on as well as the plan to accomplish a more positive experience for the child. Failure to follow this contract may result in a one-day suspension or further discipline from the Parks & Recreation Department's summer camps with further consequences possible. If a child has to be removed from the program, no refund will be given.

Suspension/Termination/Removal from Program

The Parks & Recreation Department reserves the right to remove any participant from the Program for any of the following reasons:

- Three incident reports on file or two incident reports filed per session.
- A child brings harm to another child or staff person resulting in injury.
- Unpaid camp fees for a session.
- Failure to follow the program's rules on a consistent basis.
- Consistent late pick-ups or early drops-offs.
- The Parks & Recreation Department may determine other issues not listed that could result in suspension or termination from the program.

Communication

Parent Communication

Please make sure that you discuss any questions, comments, concerns, or suggestions you may have about our program or your child with the on-site summer program Director. If, after speaking with them, you still have concerns, please contact the Parks & Recreation Department at (413)587-1040 to speak with the Recreation Supervisor or send us an email at recreation@northamptonma.gov. We are here to meet the needs of each family. Please let us know of anything that we can do to make you and your child's experience one that they will remember fondly forever.

